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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1255
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RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RUALSFJ/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 0091
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 3583
RUEHB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5996
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USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
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CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q DPRK - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Most Tuesday morning papers front-paged Treasury Secretary Paulson's meeting Monday with Finance Minister Omi in Tokyo.

11. "Japan and US Should Work Together to Resolve Abduction Issue" The liberal Mainichi editorialized (3/6): "...Difficult negotiations are expected over the abduction issue at Japan-DPRK working-group talks to be held Wednesday and Thursday in Hanoi. Japan needs to maintain its basic position of not normalizing diplomatic relations with North Korea without a settlement of the abduction issue. At the same time, as a participant in the six-party talks, Japan has a responsibility to get Pyongyang to give up its nuclear programs. Japan must cooperate closely with the US so as not to allow the DPRK to create an 'escape route' regarding the nuclear and abduction issues.... The US and North Korea will begin their own working-group talks in New York prior to the Japan-DPRK meeting in Hanoi. At the US-DPRK talks, both sides are expected to begin work to delist North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism. As Vice President Cheney recently made remarks calling a resolution of the abduction issue a joint goal for the US and Japan, the GOJ believes that the US is unlikely to unilaterally delist the North without progress on denuclearization. The US should not make any easy compromises."

SCHIEFFER